Volume 10, Number One January 1980

WESTERN TOKEN LEDGER

DEVOTED TO WESTERN STATES EXONUMIA

TOKENS FROM CHINA Dan M. Jacobson

MASONIC ANNIVERSARY TOKENS (Continued)
Stephen Album

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TOKEN COLLECTING - MODERN STYLE, II:
California and Nevada Food Stamp Tokens
Jerry Schimmel

Published by
WESTERN STATES TOKEN SOCIETY

The WESTERN TOKEN LEDGER is the official publication of the Western States Token Society, an informal, educational, non-profit organization dedicated to stimulating and maintaining interest in the tokens, medals and other exonumia of the Western states.

WESTS was founded in 1971 as the California Token Society, but in the same year the name was changed to the California-Nevada Token Society to reflect the interests of its members. In 1975, the scope of interest was expanded to include all the Western states, and starting in 1977, the name was changed again to its present form--Western States Token Society.

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Dues: Dues are $7.50 per year, paid in advance. Members receive the WESTERN TOKEN LEDGER as well as other benefits. Those joining in mid-year receive the back issues for that year. Back issues of the LEDGER, as available, may be obtained from the Assistant Editor for 75¢ per copy, postpaid. Address changes should be reported to the Secretary-Treasurer.

Meetings: WESTS holds two general membership meetings each year--one in the spring (usually in San Francisco) and the other in the fall (usually in Stockton). Additionally, local membership meetings are arranged often by various members. All meetings are publicized in the LEDGER. Interested persons are invited to attend any of the meetings.

= OFFICERS AND STAFF =

President
Duane H. Feisel
P.O. Box 1302
Los Altos, CA 94022

Secretary-Treasurer
William Williges Jr.
P.O. Box 172
Orland, CA 95963

Ledger Editor
Stephen Album
P.O. Box 7386
Santa Rosa, CA 95901

Curator
Don Finch
P.O. Box 4875
Ventura, CA 93003

Ledger Asst. Editor
Duane H. Feisel
P.O. Box 1302
Los Altos, CA 94022

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12 SEPTEMBER 1980: - We experienced a few delays in getting the last list out to you after it was written and prepared, due to the problems of finding a new printer at competitive prices, and may have the same problem once again with this issue. It seems that no one in Orland can match Bay Area prices, so Bill will likely be looking in Chico for another printer. But we are back on the track, and hope to keep things going until we are back more or less on schedule.

If we are going to catch up, we must have something to print. Up until recently, Duane and I have provided most of the editorial matter, include many short semi-articles, many of them written quite on the spur of the moment. We have a few other regular contributors, two of whom, Phil Jensen and Jerry Schimmel, have submitted material for this issue. We also have the first full-length article by member Dan Jacobson, and look forward to more of his efforts. But there are more than 100 others out there who can write something, even one page or two, and that would keep me properly busy editing the next several issues. If you have some ideas, but feel you cannot write, feel free to telephone me and I'll take dictation, best on Saturdays, when Ma Bell has her cheapest rates (and before 5 PM on Sundays, too).

OVER THE POND: - For me, there is no better goad to get something done than a firm deadline. I am leaving for Europe on this coming Sunday (14 September), so will have to have this in the mail by tomorrow evening. I'll be traveling to Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, and England. In Germany, I'll be looking at, and probably buying, a hoard of Arabic silver coins, while in England, I expect to have a crack at a Pakistani collection that contains some interesting rarities. The rest of the time will be spent visit customers, seeing friends, and having some holiday as well. I'll be gone 3½ weeks, returning to San Francisco on October 7, just in time for the next Ledger. A very nice welcome-home present would be 5 articles in my PO Box!

In England, I shall also be attending COINEX 80, a new coin show sponsored by the British Numismatic Trade Association, now in its second year. Last year's convention was somewhat of a disappointment for me, as there was little of my specialized material available, so I don't have high hopes for this year's event. I hope to have time to feel the pulse of the exonumia collectible market in England, and perhaps in Holland as well, and will report on that next time.

ON TOKEN PRICES: - Although I don't have the prices realized before me, and cannot quote representative figures, the Hard Times Tokens in Garrett Part Two, auctioned by Bowers & Ruddy in March, set astronomical records, in some cases up to ten times what similar pieces had ever fetched before. This has

unleashed a lot of verbiage in the numismatic press about tokens and medals as a collectible, and subliminally, as an investment. As you may know, Bowers and Ruddy have been selling a few lots of exonumia in almost every auction for several years, and have frequently elicited record prices for better early US tokens and medals, Civil War and Hard Times tokens, So-Called Dollars, etc.

But after Garrett II, the tone is quite different. First of all, Krause Publications has brought out a new reference on Hard Times tokens, authored by Russ Rulau, and based on Low's and other references, plus new material that has surfaced subsequently. I haven't yet seen the book, but understand it is quite a milestone. But the corker is that at the ANA, the first printing, of, I believe, 8000 copies, sold out, just weeks after publication, and the second printing, now on press, is selling very rapidly even before the first copy is available. That has never before happened to any sort of exonumia reference, and seems to point in a direction. I suspect that Detwiler's new patriotic Civil War token book will be a hot seller likewise, and will be accompanied by a flourish of new or renewed interest in that tedious series.

What's more, tokens have gained recognition, even on the US Trends page of Coin World, where the prologue, authored each week by Paramount International, one of the largest numismatic firms in the world, was recently devoted to tokens, especially Hard Times and Civil War (I believe in the September 3 issue). Other articles, some approaching the category of whay is called media hype, or just plain hype, have adorned the pages of that newspaper, and of its rival, Numismatic News.

If this is hype, one would expect that lurking behind is an attempt to sell exonumia not just as a collectible but as a collectible with investment potential. So far, this effort has been limited to early material, early US medals, Hard Times and Civil War tokens, sutlers pieces, etc., and in this writer's opinion, is likely to remain largely within those limits. But any successful hype is likely to affect all of exonumia, at least indirectly, and in several ways. For one thing, I expect to see more of the "big boys" buying and selling the stuff, including routinely a selection of exonumia together with high-prices US coins, with an emphasis on grade just as we have seen in the coin arena. While this will undoubtedly mean much higher prices for best quality material, it will also mean the restoration of exonumia to the legitimacy it formerly possessed. Back in the last century, tokens and medals shared the spotlight with ordinary coins in virtually every sale catalog, and many of the leading dealers and auction houses considered tokens one of their most prized specialties.

Secondly, if exonumia catches the public eye and begins to increase in price, much of it will be swallowed into investment packages, for Keogh plans or whatever, with the result that a great deal of choicer material will be temporarily removed from the market. To fill the void, I suspect dealers will be anxiously seeking new purchases, offering prices for middle and better collections far above what we would today consider full retail, just as has happened with high-grade US coins, and will soon have happened to many areas of foreign coinage.

Personally, I anticipate that this surge of interest and prices will affect older trade tokens, particularly from the more popular or romantic states. Whole collections will be more avidly sought than individual rarities, at least at first. Whether prices will rise substantially is difficult to predict, for any sharp increase in prices is likely to discourage collecting by serious numismatists, thus outweighing the increased demands by portfolio assemblers and their ilk. Moreover, trade token collections tend to be large and bulky, lacking the advantage of high-priced material, in that they are not what is euphemistically known as "portable and private".

Nonetheless, the ready supply of older trade tokens has largely dried up. Somewhat to my surprise, the recent bullion price rise earlier this year failed to coax out a significant volume of hitherto undiscovered exonumia, though tens of thousands of people scoured their attics and back drawers for any sort of jewelry, coin or token they might cash in while prices were high. To my knowledge, no new hoard of California tokens came out of hiding during that great cash-in. Without a constant addition to the supply, there is liitle doubt that prices for rare material must increase, providing there is no concomitant fall in demand, which could happen, as did some years ago with so-called dollars.

There is one area of exonumia which is likely to be utterly unaffected by these anticipated market development, and I refer to modern tokens and medals, essentially items produced after 1950 and especially after 1970. I have noticed a definite increase in interest in the past two or three years. It used to be, even two years ago, that even a low bid on a post-1960 item would almost assure my getting it, that is no longer the case. Bids of $5 and $6 for bronze bicentennial medals (1976) are not always winners any more. But still, there are few truly high prices, except where metal content, silver, gold, or platinum, sets a floor. Nor do I anticipate any change in this situation for many years, and expect the area to be open to serious collecting at an affordable prices for years to come. Except for the precious metal stuff, of course. The other side of the whatever is that such items will not for a long time be a good investment, but then anyone who collects modern amusement tokens or gaming tokens or whatever with investment potential in mind is really missing the whole point of collecting, which is to have a rewarding and pleasurable experience searching for and finding the components of a collection, irrespective of their future value. Of course, any diligently assembled collection is likely not to decrease in value, and will, when eventually sold, yield more than the results of ten years' worth of ski weekends.

TOKENS FROM CHINA

Dan M. Jacobson

During the latter part of March and the early part of April of this year (1980), I took a travel study course for health professionals to the Peoples Republic of China. The trip exceeded my expectations in every respect.

I was disappointed, however, in the fact that the only coins I saw offered for sale were by a woman at the top of the Great Wall along with some gemstones. However, I was too exhausted to look at any of the two or three pieces of old coppers she had.

Except for the museums, I didn't see any other coins or medals offered for sale (Hong Kong was a different story). Towards the end of the trip, while I was in Shanghai, I made a specific point of asking our English-speaking guide if any tokens were used in China today. I also went into great detail describing the ones in my collection and the others I knew about from China. He gave me his solemn assurance that tokens were not in use in China today.

Later that same afternoon, we were given our first and only free afternoon. Since it was raining violently, I chose to stay in my room and catch up on my course notes. When I had finished, I was wondering what to do with myself and decided to go down to the lobby to see if I could find an English language newspaper or the equivalent, which I couldn't.

However, as I was wandering around the gift shops, lo and behold, I discovered an American pinball machine (I neglected to obtain the brand name). Taped on the machine was a sign stating that you should obtain tokens for the machine in the stationery department. As fast as my feet could carry me, I hurried to the stationery department and purchased five tokens. Unfortunately, a group of off-duty employees followed me out to watch me play the machine, and I used up all the tokens. At one time, the machine malfunctioned and had to be opened. At that time, I saw about twenty tokens in it. The stationery store tokens were kept in a box and I judged that there were about thirty in that box.

I went back and purchased some more tokens and announced that I was going to play again after dinner. Before and after dinner, I made trips to the stationery store and bought small quantities of tokens under the pretext of playing the machine later or the following day.

This hotel had two tokens, both in white metal:

Token #1: Obv: FOR AMUSEMENT ONLY (ornate cross)
Rev: (same as obverse)

Token #2: Obv: FOR CHINA ENTERTAINMENT / ROBERT OHUA PRODUCTIONS
(Chinese legend, and map of Peoples Republic of

China, with five star symbol superimposed upon the map)
Rev: (Chinese legend) / (center design in Chinese and English) / ENTERTAINMENT ONLY

The next day, as we arrived at our hotel in Kwangchow (Canton), I was greeted by the sounds of more pinball machines on the mezzanine above the check-in desk, though this time, they were all of the electronic variety. As soon as I got settled, I went to the bank of machines and found out from one of the players that I had to go to the main desk to purchase the tokens, which I did. They were brass, uniface, incuse tokens, which read:

Token #3: Obv: DAH TUNG HONG / T.V. GAME
Rev: (Same as obverse)

For those of you who may go the the Peoples Republic of China or may have family or friends going, I suggest you keep your eyes open for amusement machines. I must admit I wasn't looking for them, but saw them in two hotels, the Pai Yun Hotel in Kwangchow, and the Ching An Guest House in Shanghai.

For some reason I was unable to determine, the pieces with the map of the Peoples Republic of China all had the number '9' written across them with a red ink felt-tip pen. The FOR AMUSEMENT ONLY type may have had something on them also, as one had a number that could have been a '6', '4', or '9', while another bore traces of having been written on. I have several theories about this, but since they are only theories, I won't use up more space discussing them.

I believe that these are the first known modern tokens from the Peoples Republic of China.

* * * * * * * * * * * * *

(Editor's note: The legends and designs on the PRC tokens described by Dan Jacobson are in very low relief, or incuse. As a result, it was not possible to make adequate rubbings for reproduction in the Ledger. Perhaps some time I'll try a fancier technique and see what results I might obtain.)

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MASONIC ANNIVERSARY TOKENS

Stephen Album

(continued from the Oct.-Dec.1979 issue)

12. Roseville, F & A M #222, nickel-silver, 35 mm., round.

Obv: ROSEVILLE LODGE NO. 222, F. & A.M. / CENTENNIAL / 1872-1972 / ROSEVILLE, CA.

Rev: (same as #1)

13. San Francisco, F & AM #120, golden bronze, 35 mm., round.

Obv: FIDELITY LODGE NO. 120 / 111TH / ANNIVERSARY / JULY 11, 1968 / MITCHELL STONE / MASTER / IRVING BERLINER / SECRETARY / F. & A.M. SAN FRANCISCO

Rev: (same as #1)

14. San Francisco, F & A M #169, antiqued silverplate, 35 mm., round.

Obv: MISSION LODGE NO. 169 / F. & A.M. / 1863-1963 / SAN FRANCISCO / CALIFORNIA / CENTENNIAL

Rev: (same as #1)

15. Santa Rosa, R.A.M. #45, nickel-silver, 35 mm., irregular shape.

Obv: SANTA ROSA CHAPTER / CENTENNIAL / NO. 45 R.A.M. / APRIL 16, 1873-1973 / SANTA ROSA, CALIF. Keystone in center.

Rev: (Shekel, as #6)

16. Truckee, R.A.M. #39, dark bronze, 32 mm., round.

Obv: DONNER CHAPTER NO. 39, ROYAL ARCH MASONS / CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION / 1871-1971

Rev: (same as #4)

17. Truckee, F. & A.M. #200, brass, 35 mm., round, pierced at top for suspension.

Obv: TRUCKEE LODGE NO. 200 F. & A.M. / TRUCKEE / CALIFORNIA / MAY 2, 1969 / CENTENNIAL

Rev: (same as #1)

18. Ukiah, R.A.M. (chapter number not mentioned), red bronze, 35 mm., round

Obv: SECOND ANNUAL REDWOOD EMPIRE / FRANK TUNZI / RANCH / G.A. SHELTREN, / G.H.P. / OUTDOOR DEGREE

Rev: (same as #10)

(This is a rather unusual piece, and seems to have been some sort of presentation piece to participants at a particular rite, possibly comprising more than one chapter; although R.A.M. is not mentioned on the piece, it is clear from the keystone reverse type.)

1979 NEVADA GAMING TOKENS

by Phil Jensen

The demise of the Eisenhower dollar and rejection of the new Anthony dollar by the gaming public has once again caused Nevada casinos to issue their own gaming tokens.

Tokens had been used during the years 1965-1970, prior to the minting of the Ike dollar. During this time, practically every club in the state had their own gaming token. Now, with the popularity of the new dollar slot machines, it has become imperative that the clubs retain a large size coin, as people are reluctant to play them with the quarter-size Anthony dollars. As in previous years, the Franklin Mint has produced the majority of the gaming tokens, although several smaller mints, such as Letcher, Columbia, and Nevada City, have added their versions of the 1979 tokens.

New regulations put forth by gaming control this year prohibit casinos with different locations from using a common token. Corporations with two or more locations may use a common reverse. For instance, Del Webb has seven different tokens, all using a common logo on the back.

In addition to the dollar tokens, several clubs have minted two-dollar and five-dollar tokens for use in special machines. The two-dollar tokens, which are slightly smaller than the dollars, have proved rather unpopular and many have been discontinued. The five-dollar token has been slightly better accepted but large volume play is needed to make them a profitable proposition. At least one club, the MGM Reno, pulled their five-dollar machines after a few weeks of play.

All in all, with over one hundred new tokens, interest in collecting gaming tokens has been revived. Following is a list of available tokens as of late December. I have most of them on hand at $1.50 postpaid. Send your want lists to P.O. Box 543, Reno NV 89504.

(Note: The letters after each listing refer to the mint which struck them; see the identification guide at the end)

PART I. ONE-DOLLAR TOKENS

RENO-SPARKS

Ascuaga's Nugget -
Bonanza Square - LM
Cal-Neva - LM
Circus-Circus - FM
Claim Stake - *
Comstock - LM
El Dorado - LM
Gold Dust Downtown - LM
Gold Dust West - LM
Grand - FM
Harolds - CM
Harrah's - *
Karls Silver Club - LM
King of Clubs - LM
Kings Inn -
Liberty Belle - NC
Mapes - LM
Money Tree - LM*
Monte Carlo - FM
Old Reno - GD
Onslow - LM
Pioneer Inn - *

SAV-MOR
OF
CALIFORNIA

B. B'S
PRODUCE &
POULTRY MKT
4365 ADELINE ST
EMERYVILLE
CA

#14139
7-ELEVEN
703 B ST.
SAN RAFAEL
CA.

REDEEMABLE
ONLY IN
ELIGIBLE
FOODS AT:
A&R
GROCERY

THE
BUTCHER
BOY

PENNGROVE
MARKET
230
MAIN ST
PENNGROVE

GIBBY'S
OF
SONOMA
#1 & #2

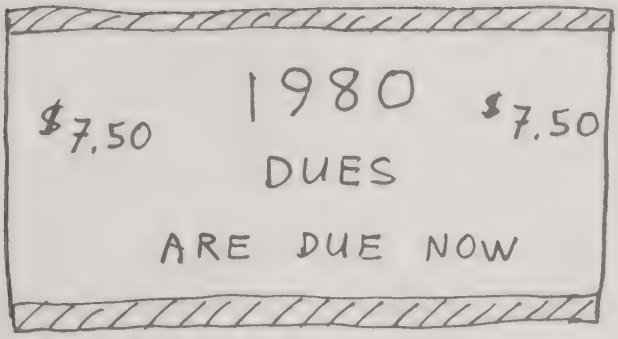
J & S
MARKET
766 WILSON ST
SANTA ROSA
CA

STANDARD
MARKET

HI FOOD STAMP CREDIT
1¢
ELIGIBLE FOODS

HI FOOD STAMP CREDIT
10¢
ELIGIBLE FOODS

Food
Stamp
25¢
Credit


$7.50
1980
$7.50
DUES
ARE DUE NOW

RENO-SPARKS (Cont'd)
- Plantation - LM
- Primadonna - FM
- Riverside - FM
- Sahara - FM
- Shy Clown - VB
- Silver Spur - LM
- Sparks Mint - LM
- Sundowner - GD

LAKE TAHOE
- Barney's - VB
- Cal Neva Lodge - FM
- Harrahs - *
- Harvey's - *
- Harvey's Inn - *
- Hyatt - FM
- Park Tahoe - FM
- Sahara - FM
- So. Tahoe Nugget - VB

VIRGINIA CITY
- Bonanza - VB
- Bucket of Blood - NC
- Delta - NC
- Red Garter - NC
- Silver Queen - NC

LAS VEGAS
- Aladdin - CM
- Barbary Coast - FM
- Bingo Palace - FM
- Caesars Palace - FM
- California Hotel - LM
- Castaways - CM
- Circus Circus - FM
- Desert Inn - CM
- Dunes - FM
- El Cortez - FM
- Flamingo Hilton - FM
- Four Queens - *
- Fremont -
- Frontier - CM
- Golden Nugget - FM
- Granada - FM
- Grand - FM
- Hilton - FM
- Holiday - FM
- Holiday International - FM
- King 8 - FM
- Landmark - FM
- Las Vegas Club -
- Maxim - LM
- McCarran Airport - FM
- Mint - FM
- Mr. Sy's - FM
- Nevada Palace -
- Sahara - FM
- Silver City - FM
- Silver Dollar - FM
- Silver Nugget - FM
- Silver Slipper - CM
- Slots-A-Fun - FM
- Stardust -
- Treasury - VB
- Tropicana - *
- Vegas World - FM
- Westward Ho -

BOULDER CITY
- Gold Strike Inn - FM

CARSON CITY
- Cactus Jacks - NC
- Golden Spike - NC
- Horseshoe - NC
- Nugget - FM
- Ormsby House - LM

ELKO
- Commercial -
- Stockmens - LM

GARDNERVILLE
- Sharkey's - NC*

JACKPOT
- Cactus Pete's - LM
- 93 Club - FM

JEAN
- Pop's Oasis - FM
- Whiskey Pete's - FM

LAUGHLIN
- Crystal Palace - FM
- Nevada Club - FM

MESQUITE
- Western Village - FM

STATELINE
- Jim's - VB
- Stateline Hotel - VB

TOPAZ LAKE
Topaz Lodge - FM

VERDI
Boomtown -

WELLS
4-Way - LM
Ranch House - NCC

WINNEMUCCA
Winners Inn - LM

PART II. TWO-DOLLAR TOKENS (all 1979)

John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks -
Aladdin, Las Vegas -
Marina, Las Vegas -
Vegas World , Las Vegas - FM
4 Queens, Las Vegas - CM
Fremont, Las Vegas -
Circus Circus, Las Vegas - FM
Stardust, Las Vegas -
Gold Strike Inn, Boulder City - FM

PART III. FIVE-DOLLAR TOKENS (dated 1978 where noted)

Dunes, Las Vegas - 1979 - FM
Caesars Palace, Las Vegas - 1978 -
Stardust, Las Vegas - 1978 -
Union Plaza, Las Vegas - 1978 -
Treasury, Las Vegas - 1979 - VB
MGM Grand, Reno - 1978 - RW
Barney's/So. Tahoe Nugget, S. Lake Tahoe - 1978 - VB
Harvey's, S. Lake Tahoe - 1979 - LM
Stateline Hotel, Wendover - 1979 - VB

APPENDIX. MINT IDENTIFICATION:

FM - Franklin Mint
LM - Letcher Mint
CM - Columbia Mint
NC - Nevada City Mint
VB - Van Brook of Lexington
GD - Greenduck Corporation
RW - Roger Williams Mint
NCC - Nevada Chip Corp.

(Editor's note, and apology to the author: - This article has lain in the hopper for a long time, and some of the data may now be obsolete. However, interested collectors are still urged to write to member Phil Jensen if interested, and I am sure he will provide the necessary update, particularly with regard to availability of tokens. We hope to have Phil send supplementary material and an update for the Ledger.)

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◆ TOKEN-COLLECTING -- MODERN STYLE II ◆

California and Nevada Food Stamp Tokens

by Jerry Schimmel

Inspired by John Reynolds' example in a recent Ledger article I wanted to write about some of my own experiences in looking for modern tokens. A recent interest of mine has been the field of Food Stamp Change Tokens. From the humble beginning of finding a 1¢ token from the Go-Getters Market (San Francisco) in the gutter, I have gone on to comb stores in the Bay Area, those in major sections of Northern California and West Central Nevada, even in Puerto Rico (on my vacation). I write to stores in distant places and carry on an extensive correspondence with a number of Puerto Rican collectors(who are very active!). I now publish a small nationwide newsletter and have put together the first book on the field. It all goes to show what you can do when you really get carried away.

My purpose is to give you some idea as to what is the state of the art today and the availability of some pieces from Nevada and California. Most of the tokens advertised in recent mail bid lists are now in the hands of Paul Cunningham, the Tecumseh, Michigan, dealer, who continues to make them available. The fact that they are actually on the market is the result of efforts by Neil Shafer of Racine, Wisconsin. Years ago he convinced the Personalized Plastics Company (now Plasco) of LaCrosse, Wisconsin, to set aside a few sets of each store's order. Apparently not more than five or six sets of any one store were ever made available in this fashion. Many of these have now been sold off.

I began to use the above mail bid lists as a guide to search for tokens locally. When the Federal Government banned the use of tokens and paper scrip in January 1979, I began to buy up total stocks from stores when they would sell. By buying the total stock I obtained errors, varieties, different types by the same store, and tokens from other stores that may not have been set aside in Neil's samples. The extras I can trade or sell to other collectors. I later used my book as a guide (available to WESTS members for $7.50 - write to me). It covers all states and most territories. The following is information that might turn out to be useful to some of you.

Nevada:

I know of only six stores in Nevada that used tokens. They are:

- Standard Market - Ely
- Anna McNeal's Quick Check - Las Vegas
- Kolhoss Grocery - Fallon
- Calvada Market - Pahrump
- Plaza Health Foods - Reno
- The Butcher Boy - Sparks

As far as I know, no one has approached the Standard Market, Anna McNeal's or The Calvada. The owner of the store in Fallon told me that some Reno collector gave him five dollars for his remaining tokens. The Reno tokens were thrown out in a change of ownership, and I have bought up most of the Sparks pieces. Nevada tokens will be among the most scarce nationwide.

California

Here is a list of some California stores whose tokens are:

1. destroyed or have been thrown out.
2. unknown to the new store owners.
3. still in the hands of the customers, never having been redeemed.

Alameda - Santa Clara Market
Altaville (Angels Camp) - Altaville-Ione Markets
Berkeley - Alcatraz Liquors
- Eden Natural Foods
Bethel Island - Bethel Market
Central Valley - Pike's Market
Chico - Health-Rite Specialty Foods
Colfax - Parrott's Country Store
Concord - 7-11 #14198
Emeryville - B.B's Produce
Fairfield - Helen's Farmers' Market
Guerneville - River Bakery
Hayward - Barron's Market
Live Oak - Tiff's Bee Hive Mkt.
Los Gatos - Good Earth Natural Food
Montgomery Creek - Montgomery Creek Store
North Richmond - Evans' Courtesy Market
Oakland - Nelson Brothers Grocery
- Tony's Liquor
Olivehurst - O&R Market
Oroville - Sav-More of California
Penngrove - Penngrove Market
Quincy - Boyd's Plaza Market
San Francisco - A&R Market
- London Market
- Torino Supermarkets
San Rafael - 7-Eleven #14139
Santa Rosa - J&S Market
Sausalito - 7-Eleven
Sonoma - Gibby's of Sonoma
Vallejo - Beverly Food Center
Williams - Roy's Supermarket
Yuba City - Yuba City Produce

(Tiff's Market, above, was listed incorrectly as Yuba City)

There are still plenty of areas to be searched. So far I have had no contact with anyone who is hunting in other states like Washington, Oregon, Idaho, etc. Thus far no one is really searching the Central Valley or Southern California. So, if you are into this kind of search, this field may be up your alley. I would like to hear about any of your finds and where you are looking. Write to me at P.O. Box 40888, San Francisco CA 94140.

WENDLING, CALIFORNIA: - A couple of months ago, I was entertaining a visitor to California, and had occasion to be up in Mendocino County, hoping to taste some wines at Edmeades, Husch, or Navarro Wineries. After stopping at Navarro, I drove further along highway 128 towards the coast, reaching the town of Navarro a few miles further along. At Navarro, I saw a sign indicating Wendling Road, so drove up it, about 200 yards or so off the highway, and spotted a number of old buildings, including one that appeared once to have served as a store or the like.

I spotted somebody in the front yard of that building, now used as a residence, and asked him if he knew of a place called Wendling. His explanation was simple and short. Yes, this place used to be called Wendling, back when Navarro was located downstream, near the coast, by the mouth of the Navarro River (now called Old Navarro). When the former Navarro was destroyed by a flood, the people living there moved up to here, and built a new town adjacent to Wendling. The name Navarro was applied to the new settlement, and the name Wendling soon dropped out of use. Strictly speaking, the two places are separate, maybe 300 yards apart, but today, the whole place, which isn't much, is known as Navarro.

Just a few more comments on other matters of Mendocino. Near Philo is Edmeades Vineyards, where I tried some of their speciality, an Eiswein ("Ice-Wine" in German). The winemaker explained that the grapes were picked one very cold morning, 16°, frozen solid, and then processed. I'd hate to have been out there picking those frozen grapes! Philo contains just one store and one tavern, and I seem to recollect a gas station as well, and has never had any tokens, so far as is known. There is also a modest-sized lumber mill, whose conveyor belt, leading from the mill to the burner, goes across the highway. Also along the road is the somewhat larger town of Boonville, which despite its important location in the apple-producing Anderson Valley, and its being the site of the Mendocino County Fair, it has produced but two tokens, an oldie, vintage ca. 1900-05, from the Old Eme Saloon, and a mysterious piece from the Mendocino County Fair, which I was once told was an admission token, but which I now believe to have been a souvenir piece. "Eme" is Scottish for "Friend", and is one of many foreign and dialect words which have crept into the local vocabulary. The folks of Boonville speak, amonst themselves, a quaint dialect called Boont, which seems to have developed in the late 19th century, and remained unknown until "discovered" by a professor of Linguistics from Chico State University, who happened upon an odd expression printed on the cocktail napkins at a local tavern. This was in the mid-1960's, and subsequently, at least one book has been published about Boont, and articles have appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle and Los Angeles Times, some of which were syndicated nationally via the wire services. As you drive into town from Philo, on the right is a cafe which offers 'bahl gorms', which is Boont for 'good food'. Across the street and a little further down is another Cafe, the Horn of Zeese, that name being Boont for a 'cup of coffee'. The Horn of Zeese, I might add, serves excellent homemade pies and other bahl gorms!

Boonville was formerly an active lumber camp, and had several prospering mills at one time, but the last mill closed around 1960. Its population has shrunk somewhat over the past 30-40 years, but has recently begun to grow slowly again, and is now about 1000 souls. There have been several antique shops operating from time to time, trying to wrest away the tourist dollar, but none has been very successful, and at present there are none in business. There is a small motel, and one of the old hotels is currently being remodeled into a country inn. I believe it is the same building in which the Old Eme Saloon was located nearly a century ago, though oldtimers were not in agreement as to the former location of McGinsey's water-

ing spot. Today the town is very quiet and peaceful, rather idyllically so, and comes to life only when there is a to-do at the Fairgrounds. Aside from the County Fair, other events are staged there, including the Alternative Energy Fair, which was going on once while I passed through. I spent a couple hours looking at models of solar systems, at 'digesters' (processors that convert human and other solid wastes into methane gas, an efficient fuel), at house and outhouse plans, etc.

Going south, you come next to the miniscule place called Yorkville, which was the supposed location of Bill's Tavern, which issued a token that appears to be 1930's vintage. I have never been able to confirm that the Bill's Tavern mentioned on the token was actually in California's Yorkville, though several specimens have been found, apparently all in California. There is still a tavern there--it is the only business in "town" --and it has changed hands so many times that nobody could remember if it had ever been called Bill's. Perhaps the question is not WHETHER it was once known as Bill's, but HOW MANY TIMES it was called Bill's!

The last place on the road is the former community of McDonald, of which nothing remains but a couple of residences, and some level places that might have once been the sites of commercial structures. The place was at the junction of 128 and a small road that once crossed the hills over to Hopland, but which no longer is passable (I don't know why). A few miles further down the road, one reaches Cloverdale and rejoins US 101. - SA

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CUNNINGHAM SELLS BOOKS: - Having trouble finding some particular exonumia reference book? Perhaps Paul Cunningham, our enterprising collector/dealer from Tecumseh, Michigan, can fill you requirements. Paul has recently issued a 13-page listing of books, mostly on exonumia, but also on coins and other collectibles. Included are several hundred titles currently in stock, plus buy prices for a couple of hundred other, out-of-print books, which are occasionally available. The titles are arranged by category, beginning with "U.S. Tokens", then "U.S. Medals", and so forth.

Over the past three years or so, I've ordered several dozen books from Paul, and have been entirely satisfied with his service. Moreover, when books were unavailable, he has kept my name on file for future availability. When the new supply would arrive, he would send me a postcard indicating availability and inquiring whether I were still interested.

For a copy of the catalog, and further information, write to Paul at box 1, Tecumseh MI 49286.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MEETING: - We will once again be having a WESTS regional meeting in conjunction with the CSNA (California State Numismatic Association) coin show in San Diego in October. This will be our first meeting so far south, and will provide an opportunity to go down to Tijuana and get Montezuma's revenge, if you're so inclined. Details on back cover.

FREE ADS

WANTED: ADVERTISING tokens or store cards. Send up to 10 of your duplicates, receive same number different.
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COMMERCIAL NOTES:

$ - Steve Alpert is having his third mail bid sale, closing Sept. 30, 1980, with well over 2000 lots, including many of interest to Western specialists. The list is neatly produced, easy to find things (except in the consignment sections), and loaded with interesting pieces. Write to Steve, P.O. Box 66331, Los Angeles CA 90066

$ - Paul Cunningham has another auction, sale no. 35, closing September 27,1980, with 3276 lots, all arranged by category. Featured is a superb collection of bank tokens and postcards, once the collection of Bruce Smith of Fort Wayne IN. With this catalog arrived a book list (see blurb elsewhere in this issue) and a whopping list of food stamp change tokens (can we call these FSCT's for short?). Write to Paul at Box 1, Tecumseh MI 49286, for information and subscription to his lists.

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LOS ANGELES BICENTENNIAL: - As part of its bicentennial celebration in 1981, the City of Los Angeles will issue a series of six 39 mm. nickel-silver trade dollars, in large quantities, each redeemable at participating outlets at face value ($1). They have been dubbed "Birthday dollars" and will share a common reverse design. Their redemption period will expire on Sept. 4, 1981, the concluding day of a year of bicentennial festivities. They will be sold at $1.89 each, or $9.45 for the set of six. Sterling silver strikings will also be prepared, and in smaller diameter there will be gold and platinum pieces as well. For information, write to Los Angeles Bicentennial Commemorative Medallic Art Program, 12115 San Vicente Blvd., Suite 214, Los Angeles CA 90049, or phone 213-476-9986.

Calendar of Coming Events

October 11, 1980: - Saturday. Regional Meeting, San Diego CA, in conjunction with the California State Numismatic Association 67th Convention. Meeting begins at 3:30 PM, in the Chula Vista Room in the Bahia Hotel, 998 W. Mission Bay Drive. I understand it is located just off I-8, west of I-5, but I don't have directions for getting there. It should be an interesting affair, and a chance for some of us Northerners to meet our down-south members!

November 15, 1980: - Saturday. Semi-Annual Meeting, and Tenth Anniversary Founders' Meeting. In conjunction with the Delta Coin Show, Stockton CA. The Coin Show will be at the Eagles Hall, 1492 Bourbon St., Stockton; the meeting will be practically next door, at the West Lane Bowl, corner Bourbon & West Lane, beginning at 12:00 Noon, til ??? There is still some slight doubt that the facility at the Bowl will be available, in which case information will be available at the coin show. It's a 95% bet, though, that we'll be at the bowl. This is usually the primo meeting for trading, so bring your tokens and get with it.

January - we usually schedule a regional meeting in the Central Valley in January, and need a sponsor. Please contact myself (Steve) or Duane with details.

April 1981 - Semi-Annual meeting in San Francisco, at the CSNA 68th Convention, Jack Tar Hotel.

June 1981 - Nevada Regional Meeting, time and place to be set later.

WESTERN STATES TOKEN SOCIETY
Duane H. Feisel
P. O. Box 1302
Los Altos, CA 94022

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